

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM  
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

<b>Project Title:</b> Bighorn Sheep Population Surveys in Region IV	<b>Project No. 07-419</b>
<b>Region/GMU:</b> Region IV	<b>HPC:</b> SW Arizona
<b>Project Type:</b> Wildlife Surveys	
<b>Project Description:</b> The Region proposes to conduct an aerial survey of the Bighorn Mountains in unit 42 to monitor its sheep population. This area received its first transplant in 2005 and plans are to supplement it with a second augmentation in November 2007. Four hours of helicopter time is requested for the survey.	
<b>Wildlife Species to Benefit:</b> Bighorn Sheep –	
<b>Possible Funding Partners:</b>	
<b>Implementation Schedule:</b> <b>Beginning:</b> October 2008 <b>Completed:</b> July 2009	

**PROJECT FUNDING**

<b>SBG Funds Requested:</b> \$ 3344
<b>Cost Share Funds:</b> \$
<b>Total Project Costs:</b> \$ 3344

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

<b>Applicant:</b> Bob Henry (please print) <b>Telephone:</b> 928-341-4048	<b>Address:</b> 9140 E 28 <sup>th</sup> St Yuma, AZ 85365
<b>AGFD Contact and Phone No.</b> (If applicant is not AGFD personnel)	
<b>Coordinated with:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Applicant's signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

**SEND COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:**

Game Branch  
 2221 W. Greenway Rd.  
 Phoenix, AZ 85023  
[mdisney@azgfd.gov](mailto:mdisney@azgfd.gov)

**NEED STATEMENT/PROBLEM ANALYSIS:**

The population in the Bighorn Mountains recently received an augmentation of sheep in 2005. We continue to monitor the sheep that have radio collars and have recorded a number of mortalities among the marked sheep, but this provides little information about uncollared animals and the overall growth or decline of the population. Aerial survey is the best technique to provide that kind of data. We need to monitor this herd to determine if the augmentation was successful or if more animals need to be added to the population.

**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**

A reliable estimate of the population size and composition of the bighorn sheep herd in the Bighorn Mountains will be obtained. From this information, the need for remedial management of the Bighorn population can be determined.

**PROJECT STRATEGIES:**

- We will conduct aerial surveys using a helicopter and 3 experienced observers to census all available bighorn sheep habitat within the proposal area. We will follow standardized methods and record flight paths and animal locations with onboard GPS units.
- The census data will be used to calculate estimates of population size.
- The estimates will be compared to previous estimates to determine trend.

**PROJECT LOCATION:**

Aerial surveys will be conducted in the Bighorn Mountains in Maricopa County, Arizona. Map is attached.

**LAND OWNERSHIP AT PROJECT SITE (Please state specifically if PRIVATE PROPERTY and provide landowner's name):**

All of the project area is public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

**IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?**

N.A.

**HABITAT DESCRIPTION:**

Most all of the proposal area is an upper Sonoran desertscrub community.

**ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:**

**BUDGET DETAILS:**

Helicopter and pilot - Cost per hour of flight time	=	\$697
Ferry and fuel truck costs per hour @ 20%	=	\$139
Total cost per hour	=	\$836

Total survey cost @ \$836 per hr		
Bighorn Mts (4 hours)	=	<b>\$3344</b>

<b>Total Cost</b>	=	<b>\$3344</b>
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The entire amount will be requested by the aviation office of Game and Fish for payment to the outside helicopter contractor.

**LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:**

The Bureau of Land Management, as the land manager of the project area, supports our survey efforts by notifying the public of wilderness overflights, and assisting with needed environmental compliance documents.

**PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:**

No long term costs will be associated with this project. The population will continue to be monitored after project completion. There will be a need and desire to repeat the survey annually for up to 5 years after augmentation.

**PROJECT MAINTENANCE:**

No maintenance will be required.

**PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:**

Bob Henry, Game Specialist, Region IV, AGFD

**WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):**

N.A.

**TREE SHEARING (AGRA-AXE, PUSH) PROJECTS (see attached worksheet):**

N.A.



TOPO! map printed on 08/31/07 from "Untitled.tpo"

